

THE MESSENGER

Vol. 4, No. 4 | A Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Fremont | April 2009

REFLECTIONS From the Interim Associate Pastor

**A place to belong and
a place to become . . .**

Dear members and friends of First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for extending a welcome to me to temporarily join the efforts of your staff during this time of waiting and learning. As we all join in prayer for healing for Pastor Charlie, I want you also to know you are invited to join in conversation and reflection about the many miracles of modern medicine as they are experienced through organ and tissue donation especially. Beginning on the Sunday after Easter, we will be convening a discipleship forum at 10:45 am in the western fellowship hall. (If you're interested in attending and normally attend the late service, we hope you'll temporarily adjust your schedule to join this conversation.) Each session and our presenters are briefly described in the box below. The forums will feature plenty of time for questions, and will be concluded by 11:45 am so you can proceed to your other Sunday plans.

Understanding Organ and Tissue Donation: Giving and Receiving Life.

- ◆ **April 19th** Members of First Lutheran will kick-off the series by sharing their personal knowledge and experience of transplants. Special guests will be the Bridgman family as they reflect on what they have learned from Spencer's liver transplant.
- ◆ **April 26th** Lucy Case, the Clinical Nurse Coordinator for the Transplant Unit at the University of Nebraska Medical Center will join us. The focus of this session will be on how it all "works" and particularly what live donors experience.
- ◆ **May 3rd** Pastor Jack Kouth will lead this session. Pastor Kouth has been active in speaking about organ donation since before his own son, an organ donor, died of brain aneurism complications as a college student. Pastor Kouth will be joined by Sharon Bothwell, a liver transplant recipient also from the Omaha area. Since her transplant, Sharon works fulltime, has gotten married and has two young children.
- ◆ **May 10th** (please adjust your Mother's Day plans!) Leslie Kuhnel, of the Alegent Health Ethics Center, will lead us in a more broad discussion utilizing the ELCA Social Statement on "Health and Healthcare" and other resources on genetics to help us consider the questions raised for our reflection by this framework.
- ◆ **May 17th** Pastor Joyce Miller, Chaplain at the University of Nebraska Medical Center will share from her experience of pastoral care for individuals and families giving and receiving organ or tissue donation. This last session in our series will prepare us for summer, as we consider ways in which each of us can be supportive of "Giving and Receiving Life."

I hope you will consider committing to all five sessions so that we might come to know one another better and consider what we learn as disciples of the One who "came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Do join us whenever you're able!

Peace, Pastor Kathy

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LAURIE BARTELS Senior Choir Accompanist	
SARAH BRUNE Jr. Choir Assistant	
KELLY CRONIN Cherub Choir Director	
BARB HANEN Cherub Choir Accompanist	
ROSIE HAIAR Nursery Coordinator	
BILL MILLER & MILT HAVEKOST Maintenance	
ALICE CLAUSEN, IONE POPKEN & MARTIN TRAUTRIMAS Parish Lay Visitors	

FAMILIES

Children and Family Ministry

FUEY (3rd - 5th Grade) will meet on Thursday, April 16th. FUEY is held in the Fellowship Hall from 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Bring a friend!

First Communion Workshop is April 4 from 9:00 to 11:00 am or April 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for 5th grade students as well as for any other member who would like to receive instruction to participate in Holy Communion. Please contact the church office if you plan on attending.

Attention All Confirmation Students and Parents! Confirmation attendance cards/ church bulletins/memory work etc... should be placed in Tami Hall's mailbox located above the family mailboxes.

GOOD FRIDAY CAMP Kindergarten – 3rd Grade students and their friends are welcome to join us here at First Lutheran on Friday, April 10th, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. We will explore the true meaning of Easter through songs, stories, crafts, snacks and games. The suggested cost for the day is \$15 to cover crafts, snacks, and lunch. Meri Jo is also looking for adults and students who would be willing to help with this camp. If you are interested, please contact her at 721-2959 ext 23 or leave a note for her in the slotted mailbox. Thanks for your support of this ministry.

GO FISH! 2009 VBS will have some exciting changes. We will be partnering with 4 other area churches to provide a community VBS experience. VBS will be June 8 - 12th from 1:00 - 4:30 pm at MIDLAND LUTHERAN COLLEGE. Registration forms are available at the new information desk and on line at flc-ne.org.. Please sign up early so we can order supplies in time for VBS week. Any questions can be directed to Meri Jo Soe at 721-2959 ext 23.

Weekly Attendance through February

2008	2009
525	530



A reminder to all First Lutheran households to turn on **star-crosses** Easter morning, Sunday, April 12.

Together, we are shining bright with Christ's light!

DEVOTIONS

Family Faith Conversations

For the week of April 5

Monday: Read 1 John 4:13-16. Why is God worthy of our worship?

Tuesday: Read Psalm 95:1-7. Do you rejoice when you worship God? Why or why not.

Wednesday: Read Matthew 4:8-11. What worldly things tempt you away from God? How can you remind yourself this week to worship only God?

Thursday: Read Psalm 98. What are some different ways you can worship God this week?

Friday: Read Psalm 55:108. When is it hardest to worship God? Why is it important to worship God even when it's hard?

Saturday: Read Psalm 103:1-14. How has God shown you His love for you? (Think of as many ways as you can.)

For the week of April 12

Monday: Read Deuteronomy 10:12. What can you do this week that the Lord asks of you?

Tuesday: Read Matthew 6:9-13. Why should your prayers include "your will be done"? How is praying as Jesus taught a way of serving God?

Wednesday: Read Matthew 5:14-16. How can good deeds serve God?

Thursday: Read Romans 12:3-8. Why do you think God made people so different?

Friday: Read Luke 19:11-26. What does this parable say about how you should use the talents God gave you?

Saturday: Read Ephesians 4:11-17. How might the things you do every day serve God?

For the week of April 19

Monday: Read Daniel 3. When have you been afraid to stand up for God? Does reading about people who stood up for God help you have courage?

Tuesday: Read 1 Corinthians 16:13. How can you show that you're standing up for God?

Wednesday: Read James 5:19-20. How might convincing someone not to do something wrong be standing up for God?

Thursday: Read Psalm 40:9-10. When does it take courage to "proclaim righteousness"?

Friday: Read Psalm 121. How does knowing that God is always with you give you cour-

age?

Saturday: Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-12. What is the "hope" that makes us able to stand up for God?

For the week of April 26

Monday: Read Exodus 15:9-11. What amazing things has God done in your life? Why does God do wonderful things?

Tuesday: Read Acts 4:1-13. Have you felt the Holy Spirit give you power? What happened?

Wednesday: Read Deuteronomy 10:20-22. How does knowing that God is powerful help you?

Thursday: Read 1 Chronicles 16:8-12. Why should you give thanks to God for the things he does?

Friday: Read Revelation 15:2b-4. Have you told anyone lately about the wonders of God? Who can you tell this week?

Saturday: Read Psalm 105:1-5. How can you remember to pay more attention to the amazing things God does?

YOUTH

Jr. & Sr. High Ministry

FLYs (First Lutheran Youth: 9-12th grade) **Meets every Wednesday** of the month in the youth room at 7:30 pm.

- April 1 Classic Fly Night
- April 8 Truth Project - History: Whose Story?
- April 15 Money, Money, Money
- April 22 Truth Project - Sociology: The Divine Imprint.
- April 29 Truth Project - Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?

FLY Exec. Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the youth room at 7:00 pm.

FLAMINGOS ARE COMING! Watch out for the Flamingos that will be flocking to FLC and the city of Fremont. This April the FLYs will be helping you protect yourself from being flocked. Look for more information to come.

Flip Flops (Middle School Ministry) meets at Fremont Middle School on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Volunteers are needed for tutoring children and to help out during snack. Also needed are food items. Watch the green sheets. Contact Tami Hall for more information

HEALTH

Of Special Concerns

Many of us will be doing gardening and yard work soon. It is an activity many of us enjoy. To minimize aches and pains later and enjoy flowers and vegetables later Dr. William Madosky provides the following tips.

- ◆ Treat gardening as a sport. Stretch the most frequently used muscles in your upper and lower body as you would before a sports activity to allow the muscles to become more flexible.
- ◆ Carefully plan how much time and realistically how much you can accomplish. Most injuries occur from doing too much too quickly.
- ◆ Practice good body mechanics. Carefully lift heavy bags of dirt and mulch keeping your back straight, bending at the knees and lifting with your legs while keeping the bag as close to your body as possible.
- ◆ Rotate activities to use different muscle groups. This helps to minimize the repetitive stress placed on the joints of your spine and extremities and the adjacent muscles.
- ◆ Use a cushion, stool or small bench when weeding to reduce the stress placed on your knees and spine.
- ◆ Take a break about every thirty minutes to stretch, get a drink of water and to enjoy your efforts.
- ◆ Stop your activity if you feel pain or become fatigued. This will minimize your chances for further injury. If the pain persists apply ice to the affected area for 15-20 minute periods of time to help reduce inflammation. Do NOT use heat, as it will increase the inflammatory process.

MEMBERS

Births, Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages

Baptisms

Hunter Charles Scott February 22, 2009
Parents: Britt & Angie Scott
Sponsors: Melissa Rountree & Dax Scott

Kenneth Allen Phares March 1, 2009
Sponsors: Sheila & Ernie Schafersman

Death:

Our sympathy to family and friends of: Ruby Larsen

Calling all 6th-8th grade confirmation students and their parents....We are having an overnigher on Saturday, April 18th, starting at 9:00 pm and ending on Sunday, April 19th, at 8:00 am. We are asking that the confirmation students bring one friend if they'd like. We really need adults to volunteer to help make this a great experience for our kids. Can we count on you? Please sign your name if you would be willing to help with some part of this fun adventure. You will be called, and then you can determine in what area you would be willing to help. Thanks so much, Overnigher committee

ZOE "Extreme Love" rehearsals have begun! April rehearsal dates are:

Friday, April 3 Tuesday, April 14 Friday, April 17
Friday, April 24 Choreography Plunge Tuesday, April 28
72 middle-schoolers, 13 HS leaders, and 16 Adult leaders are excited to spend the next 10 weeks exploring God's "Extreme Love" for us thru music, drama, bible-study and fellowship. Please keep the Zoe ministry in your prayers!

We want you to be part of **Spoudazo 2009.**

The earth is the Lord's; everything we have belongs to God.
Let's spread the news in our production of ALL YOURS.

March 25th – Registration packets will be ready to pick up at First Lutheran Church

April 5th – Come to the 7 pm Registration Meeting about this year's theme and plans with your parents.

May 21st – Rehearsals begin at First Lutheran Church

Kirsten Patrice Maffitt March 1, 2009
Parents: Joe & Joanna Maffitt
Sponsor: Allison Hanen

Jessica Ann Marsh March 1, 2009
Sponsors: Timothy Marsh & Tammy Bernt

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Special Occasions

Lenten Services

Wednesdays through April 1 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm
 Childcare available and bus service available
 Bread & Soup Supper 5:00 - 6:15 pm
 Free will offering collected for First Lutheran FLIP FLOPS after-school program
 \$3/person suggested donation

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday - April 5

The procession with palms brings us into Holy Week and the celebration of the mystery of our salvation. In baptism we're fused to this story; this week we make our way through it again, bringing us life in Christ.

Passion Story at all Worship Hours
 8:00am - Holy Communion
 9:30 am - Blended Service
 11:00 am - Holy Communion

Good Friday - April 10

Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.

Maundy Thursday - April 9

It is the beginning of the Three Days, the ancient observance of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Three Days begin with one liturgy extending from Thursday evening through Easter.

First Communion for Fifth Grade and Middle School Youth
 Confession and Forgiveness, Holy Communion
 Stripping of the Altar
 6:30 pm Worship

In our worship together, the extinguishing of candles has been placed within the reading of the Passion. After each reading, one of seven candles is put out.

As the service ends, only the Christ candle remains. As the church gathers to remember the death of Jesus, we focus not only upon the agony of the cross but especially upon God's victory through the crucified.

Tenebrae Service of Light and Darkness
 6:30pm Worship

The Resurrection of our Lord - April 12

The Lord is risen indeed! The open tomb of Jesus is the door to a new way of being in the world. On this new day, we rejoice and raise a joyful alleluia!

6:00 am - Sunrise Service of Holy Communion
 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am - Festival Services of Holy Communion

Postmaster: Dated Material



First Lutheran Church

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LETTERS **What You're Saying to Us**

Dear Members, children, & students, On behalf of the combined Joint Task Force 101 Force Management Section in Afghanistan, thank you for your awesome Valentine's Day package, love, support and prayers for our deployed troops. We absolutely love it! It was a wonderful treat enjoyed by all. On behalf of all of us, please accept the enclosed flag that was flown in Afghanistan in honor of First Lutheran Church as our way of saying "Thank you". We Salute You! God Bless!

Lt Col Sandy Best

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers I received while recovering. Also the visits and prayers from our church family. **Lil Jurgens**

Dear Friends, Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of Altar flowers! What a nice surprise for my birthday! Thanks again! **Jill Norenberg**

Special thanks to Pastor Norm for his visits before and after my surgery in February. The altar flowers soon after being home were appreciated as well. **Rita Christianson**

Thank you all again for all the great help you provided from the March Care Corp meal. This ministry would not be possible without you and your generosity. Whether you cooked or baked or delivered or severed with a smile, what you've done is very important. The residents are very grateful and enjoyed the dinner very much. Everything you do, you do so well; you are valued members of the Care Corp team. You are a credit to FLC and you make my job incredibly easy. God bless you, Thank you.

Colleen Dilley

Thank you for the meal. Also thank you so much for all the prayers, I believe this really pulled me through.

Chad, Catherine, Madisen, Makenzie & Matthew Manning

Thanks so much for sharing the beautiful altar flowers with me. Your thoughts and pastoral visits are greatly appreciated. God's blessing to all. **Lois Anne Julian**

Amidst the sorrow we feel from losing our mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt, we have been blessed with the love and prayers of so many from our church home. The family of Ruby Larsen wishes to thank their brothers and sisters at First Lutheran Church for the many expressions of care and concern shown to us as we sat with Ruby at the hospital, as we said goodbye to her, and as we continue to miss her. Thank you so much, your kindness has helped us face a difficult time.

Lana Hunke Family

Judi Pederson Family

Norma & Esther Freund Family

Harold & Janette Hanen Family

Dave & Barb Hanen Family

Thank you so much for the prayers, flowers, food and cards and well wishes. I have been blessed with a quick recovery. Blessings to all, **Don Anderson**

Thank you for the pastoral visits, beautiful flowers, delicious ministry meal during John's recuperation from knee replacement surgery, they were very much appreciated by both of us.

John & Donna Ehlers

Thank you to the FLC Congregation for all the calls and cards of sympathy. All your concerns are so very much appreciated.

Diana & Ed Christoffersen, Family of Dwight A. Hollins

A huge thank you to all who participated in making the Hand in Hand Auction a success. Those who donated items, services or cash as well as those who purchased items helped to raise over \$10,000. Once the exact amount is calculated, the money will be evenly distributed between the Pre-School and the Mowo Kindergarten fund. "Asanti!" (That is Swahili for "Thank you"). Bless you all for joining in this event. A special thanks is due to the FLYs who were at the auction babysitting the children.

Hand in Hand Committee

Thank you to the staff for your calls & prayers, the beautiful altar flowers and the yummy meal brought to my home after my surgery.

Alice Clausen

SERVICE **How You Can Help**

First Lutheran serves a meal once a month at **Care Corps Homeless Shelter** in Fremont. This month will be Tuesday, April 21, at 5:30 pm. Watch the green sheets for ways that you can help or donate food.

Low Income Ministry of Dodge County will be collecting the following items during April: sugar free puddings, Jello, pancake flour and pancake syrup. Donations may be dropped off at 549 N. H. Use glass door on south side of the building.

Save your Hy-Vee receipts for the preschool "Kash for Kids" program. Just drop your receipts in the Campbell soup container outside the preschool door.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, April 20 - City Auditorium - 11:30-5:30

Tuesday, April 21 - City Auditorium 10:30 - 4:30

Please mark your calendar! Friday, June 5th - Saturday, June 6th is the **Fremont Relay for Life** for the American Cancer Society! First Lutheran Church will have a team and we need **YOU!** All ages are welcome! Please consider joining this most worth-while event! If you are unable to be a member of the team, please consider purchasing a Luminaria in honor or memory of a cancer patient or donating to the FLC Team! Any questions please contact Joy Horn (727-4209).

Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale will be Thursday, April 2nd, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm (Members' Night), Friday, April 3rd, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, Saturday, April 4th, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm or Sunday, April 5th, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm (1/2 price sale! No limit!) City Auditorium 9th & Broad Street.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Crisis Center provides 24-hour crisis intervention service to Saunders, Burt, Cuming, Washington & Dodge Counties. Last year they provided shelter to 98 families with 154 children, provided 10,417 meals & 3,592 nights of shelter, and answered 3245 calls for help. Join them in these special events.

"Take Back the Night" Awareness Rally - Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm - Anderson Breezeway at Midland College

Light up the Night - Thursday, April 16 - Leave your porch light on all night in support of making the night safe and our community safer from sexual violence.

The **Crisis Center** is also in need of the following items: Paper towels, diapers (4 & 5), cell phone, conditioner, batteries, stamps, monetary donations, cleaning products, kitchen garbage bags, laundry baskets, new toys, calling cards, laundry soap, toilet paper, gas cards & light bulbs. Any questions call 721-4340. If you are experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault, call our confidential 24-hour hotline 727-7777 or 1-888-721-4340.

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 2009

The March 2009 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President Brian Brodd.

Nathan Clements presented opening devotions.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

STEWARDS

The counting schedule was reviewed.

DEACONS

The newly elected Deacons received training.

Roger Larsen reported that the Hand In Hand Auction was a success. Heidi Richmond and Krista Waters were named to the First Lutheran Preschool Board.

TRUSTEES

Plans for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast were discussed.

SECRETARY

MSC to accept the minutes as written.

Motion = Mark McKenzie Second = Dave Millie

TREASURER

MSC to accept Treasurer's Report.

Motion = Eric Lindgren Second = Wanda Clements

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Kathy Gerking thanked the Council for welcoming her to First Lutheran.

Nathan Clements expressed thanks to Dave Grimm for his work on the Welcome Center.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Brian Brodd announced a recommendation by the Executive Council to invite members of First Lutheran Church to continue giving to the Bridge Strategy for Capital Giving in order to support the following goals:

Retire the remaining debt on current bank note for Phase I.

Meet our pledge for the Feed the Roots, Grow the Forest Campaign of the Nebraska Synod.

Establish a starting balance for future Capital giving plans.

2010 is the 125th Anniversary of the Church.

MSC to adjourn.

Motion = Roger Larsen Second = Kevin Fenner

The Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively Submitted,

Nancy Christensen, Secretary

A reminder of the rules for the church mailboxes...

- ✓ Mailboxes are intended for distribution of information about ministry opportunities within the congregation.
- ✓ Items placed in mailboxes are asked to be mail-ready.
- ✓ Those placing information in the mailboxes are responsible for removing information not picked up after the event has taken place.

Thank you for your cooperation!

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Giving

	General Fund Pledged Receipts			Building Fund Receipts		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
January	45,393.50	53,355.50	49,293.50	12,636.99	10,907.50	12,977.00
February	<u>42,963.50</u>	<u>52,211.80</u>	<u>55,906.00</u>	<u>11,050.50</u>	<u>37,848.18</u>	<u>9,466.00</u>
Total to Date	88,357.00	105,567.30	105,199.50	23,687.49	48,755.68	22,443.00
	2009 General Fund			2008 General Fund		
	Receipts	Expenses	Net Loss	Receipts	Expenses	Net Loss
February	59,321.52	67,456.08	(8,134.56)	56,991.53	57,299.02	(307.49)
Total to Date	111,026.20	113,882.36	(2,856.16)	115,825.64	117,505.19	(1,679.55)

Expenses were up significantly in February causing us to go into the red. This is largely due to the timing of some expenses for the church home. Giving is still a little behind last year. March and April are busy months at the Church with Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Looking for good attendance and increased giving as cash flow is always a struggle. Hope you have a Happy Easter!

Sincerely, Kent Speicher, Church Treasurer.

PS. We continue to make progress on the capital fund debt, after we make a \$25,000 payment this month, we will have reduced the debt to \$100,000, so please keep giving to the capital fund!

FEATURING Of Special Interest

Senior Christian Fellowship will meet Friday, April 3, for John Ehlers' Fish Fry, coleslaw & biscuits. Please call the church office if you need a ride.

Friday AM Bible Study meets on Fridays at 9:30 am at church. They will not meet on Good Friday. *All are Welcome!*

Cover Girls Quilters WOW!! You ladies have been very busy! While Cover Girls worked on Tuesday, 25 quilt tops were brought in just that day. Really fantastic!!! Keep up the good work! Many more quilts are being sewn by members and non-members. When they are finished, please leave them at the reception desk. There will be more quilt pieces in the basket in the reception area to be taken home and sewn. In order to get caught up on tying, etc. we will have a special tying session on Tuesday, April 21, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Our regular work day will be Tuesday, April 28, 9:30 am - 3 pm. Lunch is potluck! If you have a few hours, come join the FUN!!

Prayer Shawl Ministry members plus many others in the congregation have spent many hours knitting or crocheting shawls. The latest count is nearing fifty. More yarn is available in the reception area. The stories told after people receive their shawls has been so gratifying. If you know of anyone going through hard financial times, crises of any kind, grieving, or have health problems, please let the church know so that we may take a "Prayer Shawl" to them. You may also pick up a shawl and deliver/or mail it to them yourselves. We will welcome anyone who wants to share in this ministry to join us from 9:30 - 10:30 am on Tuesday, April 7. We are so thankful for all the shawls that have been made by those of you who just want to participate by working at home. Thanks!

L.I.F.T. (Lutherans in Fellowship Together) Potluck Group will meet Thursday, April 23, at 6:00 pm. Please join us!

Retired Men's Bible study meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 8:15 am in the conference room. Coffee and breakfast treats are provided. All men of retirement age are welcome to join us for fellowship and conversation.

Second Monday Men & Women meet on the second Monday of the month (April 13) Both groups now meet at 9:00 am for coffee and then tackle some of the tasks needing to be done here at the church. Both groups always welcome newcomers.

The **2009 Radio (\$150) and Altar Flower (\$35) charts** are up. Available dates are April 26 (shared) May 24 & June 14th. You can sign up for your special day. Groups are always welcome to sponsor a broadcast. Charts are available across from the reception desk.

SOLOs (Fellowship for singles or those widowed) meet at 11:45 am each Sunday for dinner at a variety of places:

April Calendar

- | | |
|----|---|
| 5 | McDonald's |
| 19 | KFC |
| 26 | Lasagna Dinner at 1:00 pm
at Lorna Berkland's with Evelyn Anderson as co-hostess. Wear something outlandish. |

A reminder to please keep the pastoral staff informed of your expected and unexpected hospitalizations. Despite checking the Fremont hospital regularly, the church may not be receiving a complete list of members in the hospital and we have no notification from Omaha hospitals of members admitted there. Please call the church office if you would appreciate a visit.

First Lutheran Preschool now has an opening in the M-W-F afternoon class. Contact Karen Mundy for more information. They are also in need of juice and Dixie cups. Items may be dropped off at the reception desk and clearly labeled First Lutheran Preschool. First Lutheran Preschool is taking registrations for the 2009/10 school year.

The Coffee House brought to you by the FLYs. Get a cappuccino or hot chocolate, from 9:00 - 11:00 am. **All are welcome.** Cost is \$1. Stop by and grab your drink of choice or stay and discuss the biblical thought of the day. An atmosphere where you can come and go or stay and explore your faith. All proceeds go to support FLC Youth Ministries.

Our monthly **Messenger newsletter** is now available online at www.flc-ne.org. If you would like to save postage and help the environment by reading the newsletter online, just sign-up or call the church office so you maybe removed from the mailing list.

Are you a church member in need of a ride to an evening event, a doctor's appointment or maybe a worship service? **YOU ARE IN LUCK!** We have an "**Over the Road**" Gang in place to assist you! Please call Jill (in the church office; 721-2959) to make arrangements. Please let us know how we can best serve you!

First Lutheran Travelers are going to Savannah, Georgia, in May. Lots of special stops are planned including a meal at Paula Deen's restaurant. There are things to see out there in God's great world. For more information or a brochure, contact Pastor Norm or Betsy (721-3299). Non-member friends are welcome to come aboard our big beautiful bus. Nine days and eight nights - May 23 to 31 - total cost \$757.00. This includes all breakfasts, five dinners and all tips.

Have you moved? If so, please contact the church office so that we may update our records.

Fremont Area Medical Center is offering a grief support group on Thursday evening (April 2, 9 & 16) from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. For more information call 727-3663.

Unleashing the most powerful force in our state, in this generation and the next... **Freedom the Conquest 09.** Guest speakers Ron Brown & Stan Parker. Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 am - 10:00 pm - Pershing Center, Lincoln, NE. For more information check online at freedomnebraska.org

Now is the time to sign up for **summer camp.** *LOVE to SERVE* is the theme this year at Camp Carol Joy Holling. There are still many dates open. Don't forget that FLC will pay 1/2 of your camp registration.



PRAYERS Remembering ...

First Lutheran staff prays for five member families at their meeting each week. If you have a specific prayer request for your family, please call the church office to let us know of your concern. The following members and their families being prayed for throughout **April** are: Dwayne & Lucy Klocke, Erma Knoell, Melissa Knoell, Molly Knoell, Beryl Knudson, Dawn Koehlmoos, Vicki Kohl, Deanna Kopisch, Douglas & Sheri Kriete, Darlene Kroeger, Linn & Heather Kroeger, Catherine Kroupa, Tony & Jode Kubin, Don & Jean Kubr, and Joe & Marjorie Kubr.

We ask you to include these brave men and women in your prayers as well as the following members and friends of First Lutheran who continue in active service to their country:

Cadet Bryce Christensen, son of Dale & Jeannine Christensen
Specialist Stefan A. Fahrlander, Grandson of Ray & Myrna Meister
LCDC Keith R. Hanson, Son of Jim & Mary Ann Hanson
Michael Harper, Midshipman,
Grandson of Lowell & Mardell Weitzenkamp
Sgt. Sarah Haskins, Granddaughter of Larry & Mary Ann Thomas
CPL Garret D. Heitshusen, friend of the congregation
2nd Lt. Ryan Hurt USMC, nephew of Dave & Kathy Pinkall

Army Spc. Jared Kruse, son of Jeff & Connie Elliott
SFC Eldon Kuntzelman, son of Rex and Vi Kuntzelman
Major Randall Morris, son of Diane and Paul Morris
ENFN Chase P. Nickels, grandson of Delwyn & Anita Hasemann
Curtis Nissen, grandson of Clarence & Dee Schakat
1st Lt. Johanna O'Toole, granddaughter of Barbara Lanning
Sgt Scott Peterson, son of Chuck & Lorie Peterson
Andrew Steffensmeier, nephew of Scott & Bonnie Warner

Operation Shield News

What a blessing it has been for members of Operation Shield to be able to share messages and prayers from First Lutheran members with those serving in the military! In February over 350 homemade Valentines, filled with messages of love and encouragement, were sent to those serving both at home and abroad. But probably the biggest surprise came in a package that was actually returned to us. If packages could only speak, this one would have quite a tale to tell. Last December, boxes of Christmas goodies were lovingly assembled to be sent to soldiers who would be celebrating our Savior's birth far from home. Several weeks later, one of the packages was returned to us—the soldier had returned (safely!) to his post in the United States. Now, each package that was sent contained 6 dozen peppermint candy canes, carefully bubble-wrapped to keep them in tip-top shape so the recipient could share them with his/her unit. When the returned package was opened, a strange rattling was noted—and it was not due to a broken candy cane—they were safely bubble-wrapped, remember? On closer inspection, the source of the rattle was determined to be a 9mm bullet!! The top flap of the box had a ragged hole ripped into it, but there was no exit hole. Imagine our amazement as we grasped the full meaning of what had apparently occurred!! These packages, containing heartfelt wishes, prayers, and loving tokens of the season, had been sent with our congregation's blessings for those who serve in harm's way. Apparently, as one package was being transported, shots were fired, and the bullet found its way to rest among the candy canes. Imagine that—a simple piece of candy—a soldier's life is protected. Did you know the candy cane was designed by a candy maker as a witness to his Lord, his protector? Please continue to keep our soldiers, both at home and abroad, in your prayers. Pray against strife and ask that the peace that passes all understanding mount a guard about their hearts. May God's continued Grace flow through them.

FELLOWSHIP Women's Ministry

Lydia Wednesday, April 8 9:30 am
Hostesses: Tracey Arett & Charlotte Scholl

Ruth Thursday, April 9 9:00 am
Lesson Leader: Meri Jo Soe
Hostess: Beulah Larsen

Please consider joining us for a fun fellowship and Bible study on the book of Esther.

Faith Thursday, April 16 (*note date change*) 7:00 pm
Lesson Leader: Beth Meyer
Hostess: Betsy Hansen

Grace Tuesday, April 21 7:00 pm
Lesson Leader & Hostess: Janet Larsen

Lesson Leaders will be meeting on Thursday, April 2, at 6:00 pm.
Please contact Nathan Clements if you plan on attending.
721-2959 ext. 19



Save the date!!! July 24-25
A women's conference right in Fremont.
For details visit www.fremontwdd.com.

FEATURING Of Special Interest

Continued

New Young Adult Group - Starting April 30th

The busyness and responsibilities of everyday life are constant sources of stress and anxiety for all of God's people. Thankfully we have the community of First Lutheran Church, where we can gather to worship God, hear the good news of grace and forgiveness, and be recharged to live as disciples of Christ throughout our lives. There are many wonderful ways to grow in faith and make a connection with God and one another at First Lutheran, but there is a great need in our congregation and the wider church about which we should be concerned. Our young adults are being forgotten. As a community of Christians we are called to nurture people of every age in their journey of faith. For this reason, I propose starting a new young adult ministry group. Young adulthood is an incredible time in life full of discernment, gaining experience, and yearning for a deeper connection with God. This April, on Thursday the 30th, this new group will meet for the first time at The Blue Bottle Coffee Shop in downtown Fremont at 6:00 PM. If you or someone you know (ages 20-30) would be interested in attending, please be sure to join me for a time of Bible study and discussion as we explore the direction of this new ministry. I hope to see you there! Intern Pastor Nathan

First Lutheran will be hosting Guest Worship Leader Matt Brouwer on April 26. Matt and his band will provide special music at the 9:30 service and lead worship at the 11:00 service.

An artist blessed with an incredible heart and vision, Canadian-born singer/songwriter MATT BROUWER hit the scene with his Reunion Records debut album, *Imagerical*, in 2001 and scored the hit single "Water." The album was an instant worship classic and garnered two Vibe awards in Canada as well as a Juno award. Brouwer moved from Nashville to Houston in 2002 to partner with acclaimed worship musician Chris Tomlin and work at a dynamic worship service known as "The Harvest." His eagerly anticipated follow-up album, "Unlearning," which includes a bonus live DVD, was released in the winter of 2005 to rave reviews and spectacular radio success, with lead single "I Shall Believe" becoming a nationwide smash at CCM radio as well as some mainstream stations. For more about Matt, check out his website: www.fishers.com/mattbrouwer

Palm Cross Assembly will take place on Friday, April 3 at 10:00 am. All are welcome to help!



Please Welcome the following New Members A place to belong and a place to become . . .



Jason & Rhiannon Connelly have 3 children, Kaden, Karter and Ava. Jason is employed at Structural Components and Rhiannon at Mane Attractions. Jason is from Fremont and Rhiannon has lived in Fremont for 8 years. They enjoy spending time with their family.

Parish Partner - Jeremy & Jenny Hansen

Daniel & Andrea Espinoza have 2 children, Madeline & Parker. They have lived in Fremont for 8 years. Daniel is District Manager at Rent-A-Center. They enjoy spending time with their family.

Parish Partner - Joel & Krista Waters

Sonja Hampton has a son Benjamin. They have lived in Fremont for 14 years. Sonja is employed at Werner Enterprise. They enjoy spending time with family, camping, fishing and reading.

Parish Partner - Sarah Klco

Sarah Heller

Parish Partner - Steve & Cindy Slykhuus

John Glenn & Derek

Parish Partner - Steve & Cindy Slykhuus

Ralph & Marge Larsen have 2 grown children. They are retired and have lived in Fremont for 8 years. They enjoy woodworking, camping, bicycling & gardening.

Parish Partner - Roger & Eileen Larsen

Kirsten Maffitt is a high school student and has lived in Fremont her whole life. She enjoys music & traveling.

Parish Partner - Bill Poppe

TJ & Jessica Marsh have 2 children Alexa & Jacob. Jessica works in customer service at Edge Teleservices and Tim is Vice-President at Protlome. They have lived in Fremont for 3 years and enjoy outdoor activities.

Parish Partner - Todd & Tammy Bernt

Dan & Kristie Ondracek have lived in Fremont for 30+ years. Dan is a registered nurse at Creighton University and Kristie is a Financial Analyst at Northern Border Pipeline Company. Kristie enjoys scrapbooking, reading & crafts and Dan enjoys fishing, running & gardening.

Parish Partner - Terry & Beth Meyer

Kenneth Phares is married to Brittney (already a member), they have lived in Fremont for 25 years. They have 2 children Maycee & Madison. Kenneth enjoys working on cars and spending time with family.

Parish Partner - Ernie & Shelia Schafersman

Doyle & Coleen Routon are retired. Doyle is retired from Captain Line Haul Barge Lin Ingram Barge Co. They have lived in Fremont for 3 years.

Parish Partner - Ernie & Shelia Schafersman

Britt & Angela Scott have 2 children, Hunter and Branden. They have lived in Fremont for 3 years. Britt is employed at Valmont Industries and they enjoy camping & hunting.

Parish Partner - Alice Clausen

John & Connie Snover have 2 children Sheila & Stacy. They are farmers and have lived in Fremont their whole lives. They enjoy farming, hunting, live stock, cars and equine riding.

Parish partner - Ed & Diana Christoffersen

Tia Taylor

Parish Partner - Jack & Pam Mulliken

Brent & Angie Willnerd have 2 children, Devin & Braeden. Brent is a farmer and Angie is a teacher at Fremont Public Schools. They have lived in Fremont for 9 years and enjoy being outdoors and spending time with family.

Parish Partner - Linn & Heather Kroeger

